

Application Serial No. 09/629,721
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Reply to Office Action dated July 16, 2003

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REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.116, which is being submitted concurrently with a request for a three month extension of time, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, formal drawings including the previously submitted and approved correction to Fig. 11 have been required. Claim 18 is rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 1, 8, 13 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 8, 13 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claim 19 is indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, rejections and to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claim.

For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in the claims includes features that are not suggested or rendered obvious by the cited references, taken singly or in any combination. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has suggested a proposed amendment to claim 1 which adds the features of allowable claim 19 to claim 1. Applicants thank the Examiner for his proposal and have amended claims 1 and 18 to include substantially all of the Examiner's proposed amendments. Specifically, the Examiner's proposed amendment is included substantially verbatim in claims 1 and 18, except for deletion of the word "closed" from "closed loop". It is submitted that defining the handle connector as being in the form of a loop is commensurate with the scope of the invention as set forth in the specification and shown in the drawing.

In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 18, it is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections have been overcome such that claims 1, 8, 13 and 18 are in condition for allowance; notice of which is respectfully requested.

Entry of this amendment under the provisions of Rule 37 C.F.R. 1.116 is submitted to be warranted and is respectfully requested. By this amendment, the Examiner's proposed amendments to claim 1 which would place claim 1 in allowable

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condition, have been adopted. As a result, claims 1, 8, 13 and 18, which includes the same Examiner proposal, are now in condition for allowance thereby removing all outstanding issues and placing the entire application in allowable form.

If the Examiner believes that further amendments to the claims are necessary to place the claims in allowable condition, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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